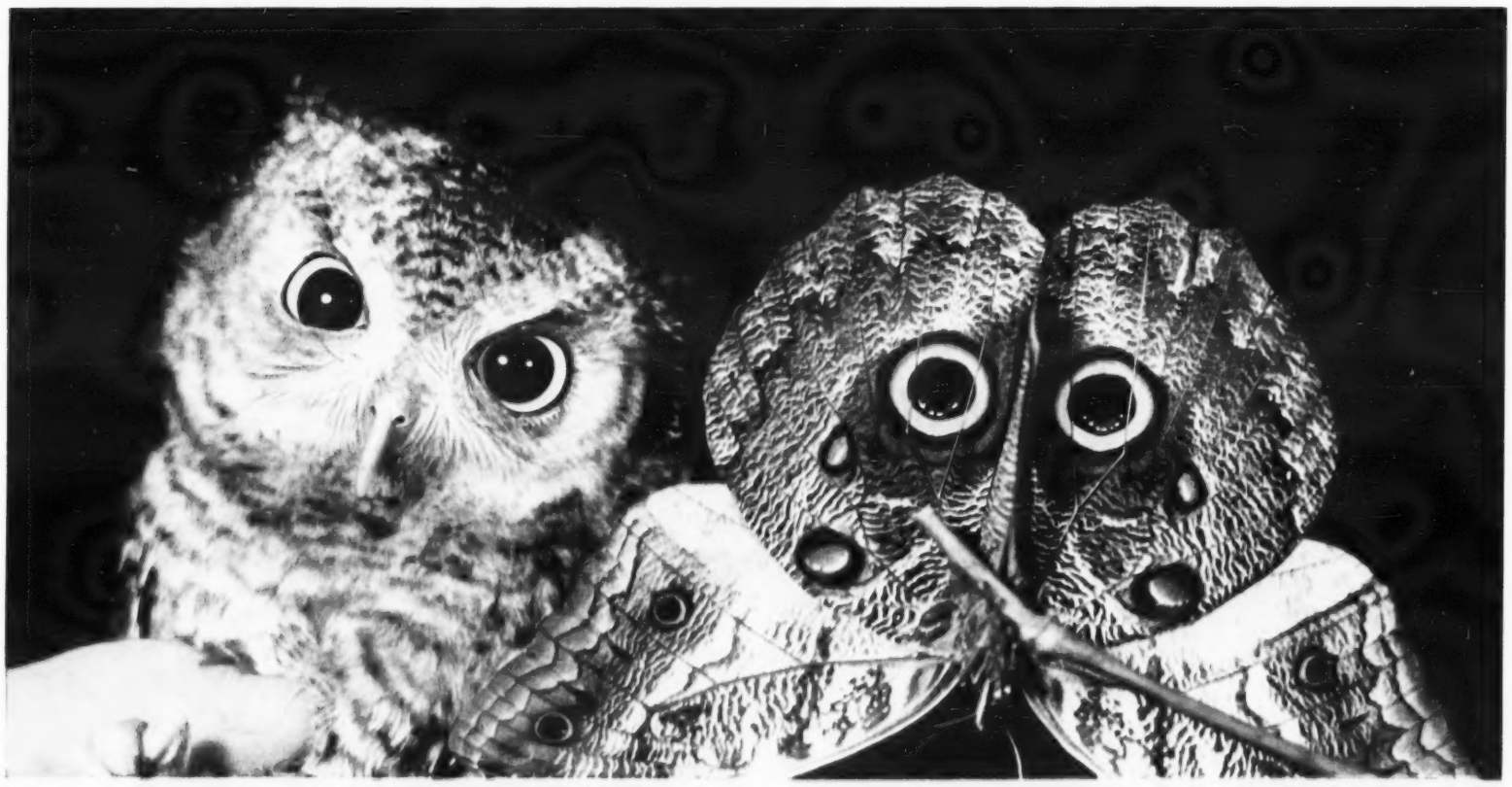
"SOMETHING RICH AND STRANGE"—I. A HUGE BLOCK OF SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE—A MILLION-DOLLAR AQUAMARINE WHOSE OWNERSHIP IS IN DISPUTE—IMPOUNDED IN NEW YORK.

This enormous block of aquamarine, weighing 56 lb. and with an estimated value of 1,000,000 dollars, has been lying behind the iron bars of the vaults of the Manufacturers' Safe Deposit Company in New York since November 1946, as its ownership is in dispute. In 1946 a syndicate, representing one of the many claimants, transported the semi-precious rock from Brazil to the United States, intending to have it cut into small stones for sale as jewellery, but legal complications blocked this plan; and until the courts in Brazil decide who owns it, the stone will remain in the vaults. It is reported that the issues are so involved that no one is even sure exactly where and when in Brazil it was found. Aquamarines come from Russia, Egypt and parts of the United States, but, above all, from Brazil.

Courtesy Life International. Copyright Time Inc. 1954.

APPARENTLY A MOSSY BANK STREWN WITH DEAD LEAVES AND STRAW ACTUALLY OCCUPIED BY THREE YOUNG COTTONTAIL RABBITS, A BOX TURTLE, A MILK SNAKE, TWO LEAF BUTTERFLIES, AND THREE STICK INSECTS, ALL RENDERED ALMOST INVISIBLE BY COLOUR OR SHAPE OR BOTH.



BIRD OR INSECT OR ONE OF EACH? AN OWL AND THE CALIGO OR OWL BUTTERFLY, WHOSE MARKINGS RENDER IT AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE "LAMB IN WOLF'S CLOTHING" A HARMLESS CREATURE WHICH MIMICS A FIERCE PREDATORY ONE.

"SOMETHING RICH AND STRANGE"—II. ASTONISHING EXAMPLES OF ANIMAL CAMOUFLAGE.

Animal camouflage and mimicry, Nature's strange devices to enable the more vulnerable creatures to survive in a world peopled with fierce and predatory birds, beasts, insects and reptiles—to say nothing of that dangerous enemy, man—afford a fascinating study. Everyone with an observant eye has noticed beetles which look like leaves, moths which disappear into the background when settled on a tree, and various creatures whose protective colouring makes them difficult to spot against field, wood or moorland. The illustrations which we reproduce are outstanding and remarkable examples of this protective colouring or mimicry in shape. Glance at the mossy bank of our upper picture, and it appears to consist of plant life only; but close study reveals the presence of three young cottontail rabbits, a box turtle, a milk snake, two leaf butterflies and three stick insects. The rabbits are concealed by colour, the butterflies, box turtle and stick insects by shape as well as colour. As for the Caligo or Owl butterfly it is an outstanding example of the "lamb in wolf's clothing" form of protective colouring which has been described as a kind of bluff, and is well known in the animal kingdom.

"SOMETHING RICH AND STRANGE"—III. THE *PREMIER DANSEUR* OF THE FISHPOND IN A COLOURFUL BALLET, "THE FROG AND THE BUTTERFLY," IN WHICH *PAUL* LEAPS FROM THE WATER.

This dramatic colour photograph presents *Paul*, a pet frog belonging to the children of Mr. W. T. Davidson (who took the picture), as *premier danseur* of the fishpond. When hungry, *Paul* would jump as much as half again its overall length out of the water to catch a butterfly, whereas when satisfied it would only jump some 3 or 4 ins. Mr. Davidson became interested in photography; and the agile *Paul* presented an obvious subject; but its movements were so rapid that it was only with the co-operation of Commander William S. Heston, an electronic engineer, that he succeeded in perfecting the equipment of a light beam or electronic eye, which took this photograph. The camera is so set that when the electronic beam is interrupted the subject is automatically photographed. The first part of *Paul's* jump is made with the front feet hanging down. In one continuous movement, too fast for the camera to catch, its front-hinged tongue is flipped out to snap the butterfly into the mouth and, at the same time, the feet are flung forward to cram the luckless insect inwards.

Colour photograph by W. T. Davidson.

"SOMETHING RICH AND STRANGE"—IV. THE CHATSWORTH VIOLIN—WHICH CANNOT BE TUNED OR PLAYED. A REMARKABLE *TROMPE L'ŒIL* PAINTING BY VANDERVAART.

This *trompe l'œil* painting of a violin is on the inner central door of the State Music Room at Chatsworth, the Derbyshire seat of the Dukes of Devonshire. Painted by Vandervaart for Devonshire House, London, it was brought to Chatsworth and eventually placed in its present position. There is no truth in the often-repeated story that Grinling Gibbons's skilful carving of the objects represented on the doorcase deceived Verrio, painter of the ceiling, into thinking them real; and that Verrio, "in revenge," painted the violin, and in turn deceived Grinling Gibbons. The picture did not come to Chatsworth until thirty years after Verrio's death.

Actual colour photograph by A. C. K. Ware Ltd.